

Gospel of Luke 23

"The King of the Jews"

18 & 22 February 2024

1. Jesus confesses to Governor Pilate (1-5).

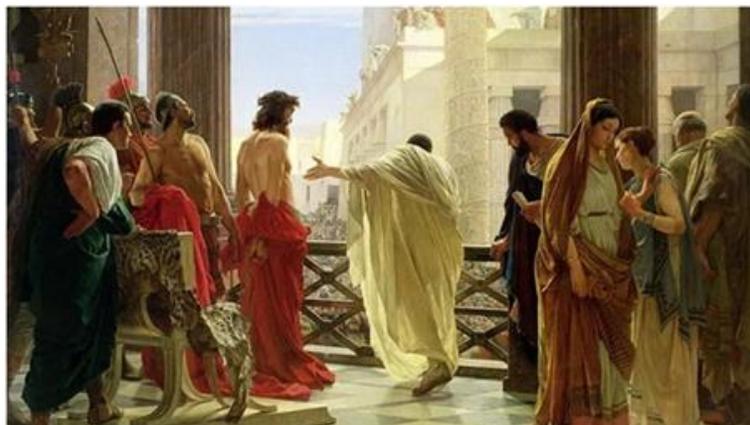
- Early: Roman officials only met the public before noon.
- Messiah: Hebrew (*mošiah*) and Greek (*hristos*): anointed kings Messiah.
- Messiah: Council leaders make Jesus' words sound like those of a revolutionary.
- Bar Kochba : Rabbi Akiba declared him to be the Messiah. He led his people in a second revolt against the Romans in A.D. 132–135, resulting in a bloody defeat.
- A king: It was not against Roman law to call oneself a king, but it was dangerous to rebel against Roman authority.
- Galilee: Judas of Galilee (or Gamala), was a Jewish leader who led resistance to the census imposed for Roman tax purposes by Quirinius in Judea Province in AD 6. —Wikipedia



3. Jesus remains silent before Herod (6-12).

- Herod: Antipas, who had imprisoned and murdered John the Baptizer.
- Jurisdiction: Roman authorities only tried crimes committed in their own jurisdiction.
- Sign: Magical trick?
- Silent: Why? Silence could lead to a tacit admission of guilt.
- Robe: Jewish kings wore a long, bright white robe.
- Herod: had intervened to remove Pilate's votive shields from Herod's palace in AD 26. Philo, *Embassy to Caligula*, 299–305, c. AD 40
- Pilate: had murdered Galileans who came to Jerusalem. Luke 13:1
- Pilate: had pilfered the temple treasury to build an aqueduct. Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.60-62

3. Pilate accedes to an angry crowd (13-25)



Ecce Homo ("Behold the Man") by Antonio Ciseri, 1871

4. Roman soldiers crucify Jesus (26-33).

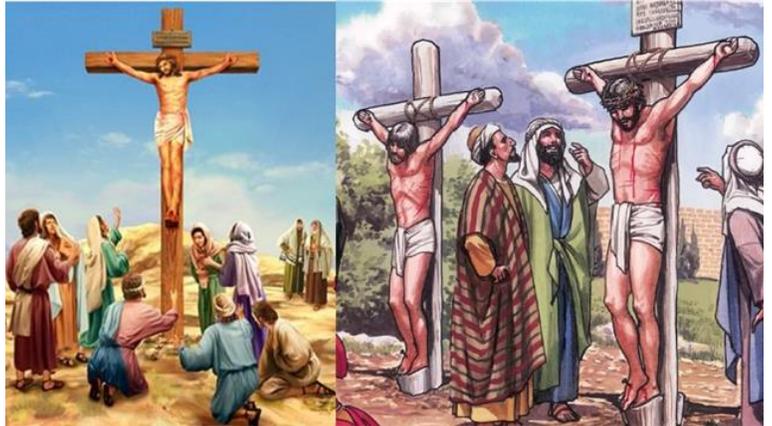
- Cyrene: Modern Libya. Jewish community..
- Soldiers: could press anyone into service.4.
- Time: AD 65-72 and 132-135.

5. Jesus prays for his enemies (34-43).

- Greek: “the King-of-the Jews, This (Is).”
- Aramaic: “This Is Jesus (the) King (of) the-Jews.”
- Latin: “Jesus (of) Nazareth, King (of the) Jews.”

Place of the skull

- Skull: Three possible sites:
 - (1) Church of the Sepulcher.
 - (2) N.E. of the temple mount.
 - (3) Atop the Mount of Olives.
- Forgive: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44
- Doing: Whom were they crucifying?
- Why would God allow his Messiah to be crucified?



6. Jesus dies on a Roman cross (44-49).

- My spirit: Quoting Psalm 31:5.
- Psalm 31:6: Often recited at the evening offering, about the time of Jesus' death.
- Righteous: Or ‘innocent’.
- Watching: Family & friends attended crucifixions. Sometimes to retrieve the body.
- Distance: So that all could see, for crosses were nearer to the ground than what Christian art usually portrays.
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7. They bury Jesus in Joseph’s tomb (50-56).

- Upright man: As today, Judaism was quite diverse, politically, ethnically, morally and religiously.
- Luke often portrays Roman officials as helpful to Christians.
- The body: It was allowed to ‘break Sabbath’ to prepare a corpse for burial.

Reasons for Messiah’s death

- As a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.
- To fulfil Scripture, Luke 24:46.
- To conquer death by rising from death.
- To break the power of sin in our bodies.
- To despoil Satan, false gods and demons.
- To show the love that God has for us.
- To purify the way into God’s Presence.
- To liberate righteous spirits in Hades.
- To justify God’s past patience with sinners.